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Message Text

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O 181310Z JUL 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169435

NODIS

FOLL REPEAT WARSAW 4579 ACTION SECSTATE 18 JUL 75:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4579

NODIS

FOR SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PL(GERALD R. FORD)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO POLAND

REF: STATE 169403

1. DEEPLY APPRECIATE RECEIPT OF GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF. I AGREE COMPLETELY THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO DROP IDEA OF TRAVEL BEYOND ENVIRONS, ALL THE MORE SO SINCE EVEN A VISIT TO KRAKOW WOULD TEMPT THE POLES TO PROPOSE A SIDE TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ.

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2. JACK SCANLAN, ACTING DCM, WILL ACCOMPANY BOB GOODWIN AND

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE TEAM TO THEIR FIRST MEETING WITH POLISH COUNTER PARTS AT 2:00 P.M. IF YOU AGREE TO THE APPROACH OUTLINED BELOW, SCANLAN WILL TELL POLES AT THAT MEETING THAT WE PREFER TO CONFINE THE VISIT TO WARSAW ALONE.

3. BOB GOODWIN TELLS ME HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ITINERARY CALLS FOR AN EARLY AFTERNOON ARRIVAL ON THE 28TH AND DEPARTURE MID-AFTERNOON ON THE 29TH FOR HELSINKI. I HOPE RED CAVANEY WILL BE IN A POSITION WHEN HE ARRIVES HERE TO CONFIRM THAT THIS IS THE CASE. IF IT IS, THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE NO TIME TO VISIT ANY OTHER CITY IN POLAND.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, POLES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL UNDERSTANDABLY HOPE FOR RECOGNITION OF THEIR WAR-TIME SUFFERINGS AND HEROISM. ONE WAY TO SATISFY THIS WITHOUT OFFENDING THIRD PARTIES WOULD BE SOME VARIANT OF THE KIND OF TRIBUTE EMBODIED IN OUR DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

5. WHILE WE ARE DROPPING THE IDEA OF TRAVEL TO A SECOND POLISH CITY, IT WOULD BE GOOD TO BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE EVENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF WARSAW WHICH WE COULD USE TO HEAD OFF POLISH PROPOSALS FOR VISITS TO ANY OF THE MANY MEMORIALS WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF WARSAW (E.G., TREBLINKA, WHERE THERE IS A VERY IMPRESSIVE MONUMENT). CONSEQUENTLY, REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO CONSIDER WREATH-LAYINGS AT BOTH THE GHETTO AND NIKE MONUMENTS, TO FOLLOW THAT AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER.

6. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS BONN AND CAVANEY.
DAVIES UNQUOTE

KISSINGER

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